OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 24, 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Eileen Andrus 504 681-3200

Inspector General Review of Travel Expense Policies

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) today released a report of its review of the City's policies for travel and business expense reimbursement and credit card use. The review originated in an examination of the travel expenses of the former Director of Sanitation.

The review found that the current policies were vague and gave the employees limited guidance on what is "reasonable, best available" and "necessary official expenses." The policies also did not specify the types of expenses that were not allowed.

The City fully or partially adopted 88 of the 93 specific recommendations contained in the report, and planned changes to other policy documents for the remainder. The City said it planned to implement the revised policies in September.

"This lack of clarity in its expense reimbursement policies resulted in waste and abuse of City funds," said Inspector General Quatrevaux. "Vague policies allow people to make choices that are not in the best interest of the citizens, and we applaud the City's clarification of its policies."

The entire report can be viewed and downloaded from the Office of Inspector General's website at http://www.nolaoig.org.

###